

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Minutes of Meeting March 19, 2003

A meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) was held on Wednesday, March 19, 2003, scheduled for 8:30 a.m., in the Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California

Members Present: Kerry Arnett, *Drew Bedwell, Ann Guerra, Chet Krage, Linda Stevens, Josh Susman, *Robin Sutherland

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Dan Landon, Executive Director; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; Mike Woodman, Transportation Planner; Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant

Standing Orders: Chairman Susman convened the Nevada County Transportation Commission meeting at 8:34 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance:

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: For discussion and possible action.

1. Financial Reports:

Executive Director Landon explained the origination of the "Reserved" Grass Valley Regional Mitigation Transportation Fee (Fund #328) in response to a concern expressed by Commissioner Stevens. He stated that the City of Grass Valley had a list of projects for local mitigation fees and that a number of those projects were also included in the Regional Mitigation Fee Program. The money the city collected was reported on the financial report in the spreadsheet entitled, "Reserved Funds". Mr. Landon explained that Nevada County also had projects listed for local mitigation fees, but that those projects did not coincide with the projects listed in the Regional Mitigation Fee Program and therefore were not reported.

*Commissioner Robin Sutherland arrived.

3. Correspondence:

F. Letter from Jody Lonergan, Caltrans District 3 Director.

Executive Director Landon reviewed the response from Jody Lonergan to the Commission's letter regarding the safety issue at the SR 89 "Mousehole".

G. Caltrans North Region Environmental Services.

Executive Director Landon stated he had received Caltrans Notice of Preparation regarding the Environmental Impact Report for the widening of SR 49 and will notify them that NCTC is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency and therefore expected to receive all of their notices.

Commissioner Krage stated he would like the following activities to be included in Caltrans study for the SR 49 EIR:

- Consider an alternative for widening that follows the existing alignment utilizing a 1.2 meter median rather than a 4.2 meter median wherever possible. This will provide for a four foot divider in the middle rather than a fourteen foot one, therefore reducing costs and the amount of cuts and fills.
- Study the impacts of frontage and collector roads and the amount of right-of-way that will need to be acquired. Commissioner Krage noted that the EIR clearly shows the impacts of various levels of action that can be taken to reduce the number of encroachments directly on SR 49 by providing frontage and collector roads.
- All trees and vegetation, and not just oak trees and oak woodland habitat should be studied when addressing impacts this project will have. The scenic value of the trees and the screening they provide for subdivisions need to be considered.
- Natural landforms should be studied for their scenic value, as well as, to see how removing or cutting them can be avoided or mitigated.
- Need to study how neighborhoods along SR 49 will be affected with various alternatives.

Chairman Susman received consensus from the Commission for staff to request Caltrans to include Commissioner Krage's list of activities in their EIR study.

4. Caltrans District 3 - Project Status Report: Tom Brannon, Caltrans Project Manager, for Nevada County presented Caltrans Design Goals and Preliminary Maps for the widening of SR 49 from Wolf/Combie Road to south of McKnight Way in Grass Valley.

Design Goals - Mr. Brannon explained that the following Caltrans Design Goals for the SR 49 Corridor were established as a result of doing the Project Study Report for SR 49 and from holding meetings with Mr. Landon and Commissioner Krage.

- Free Flowing Traffic From End to End. No "North Auburn" atmosphere after completion.
- Protect scenic resources. Keep rural character with trees, landforms, and other features.
- Avoid environmental impacts whenever possible. Cherry and Wolf Creeks avoided.
- Improve existing environmental impacts wherever possible.
- Use creativity to reduce costs through good design.
- Improve safety to mainline and access road traffic by consolidating access points and constructing frontage roads.

Mr. Brannon also reviewed his handouts on the project's scope and purpose, budget, schedule, other issues, and the preliminary design maps. He noted that the proposed frontage roads and acquisition of right-of-way would change after discussions with the County, the public, property owners, and neighborhood associations.

Commissioner Krage stated it was important that Caltrans and the County establish, early on, a framework or policy under which ownership and maintenance of the collector and frontage roads was established.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krage that the Commission agree with Caltrans "Design Goals" for the expansion of Highway 49 as Mr. Brannon presented them. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Susman asked Mr. Landon to present to the Commission, at a future date, the road acceptance policies that exist between Nevada City, Grass Valley, and Nevada County.

Commissioner Sutherland stated that she believed strongly in right-of-way corridors that are used for multiple purposes. She noted that in the process of acquiring right-of-way, it is important to communicate with other entities who may be planning to use the area for other infrastructure purposes i.e. fiber optic lines.

Chairman Susman asked Mr. Brannon to return to the Commission with suggestions how to accomplish communications with other entities who may be planning future infrastructure activities along the SR 49 corridor.

Commissioner Sutherland stated that Caltrans, in its process of acquiring right-of-way, needs to consider facilitating alternative methods of transportation on the frontage roads. Mr. Brannon responded that alternative transportation needs is a requirement of the PA/ED process. Commissioner Sutherland also stated that it might be a good opportunity to leverage some park money with transportation money to develop a well-designed project for the whole community

*Commissioner Drew Bedwell arrived.

In response to Commissioner Sutherland's suggestion of alternative transportation, Bill Derrick, Manager of Nevada County Transit Services, stated that the County will need to identify locations for bus stops along the SR 49 corridor where passengers can be picked up safely.

Commissioner Sutherland expressed concern for the public to be able to exit the County quickly if an emergency occurred. Mr. Brannon responded that with additional lanes throughout the corridor, in the event of an emergency, traffic would certainly move better than with just two lanes.

CONSENT ITEMS:

4. NCTC Minutes: February 19, 2003. *Approved.*
5. Annual Transit Adjustment *Approved Resolution 03-06.*

A motion was made by Commissioner Arnett to approve the consent items. Commissioner Guerra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

6. Reallocation of funds in the Transit Vehicle Refurbishment/Replacement Account and a request from Nevada County for disbursement and loan of funds for the purchase of three buses.

A motion was made by Commissioner Krage to adopt Resolution 03-07 approving disbursement and loan of funds to facilitate the purchase of three buses. Commissioner Arnett seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9:46 a.m. Chairman Susman adjourned NCTC and opened the OPC meeting.

11:30 a.m. Chairman Susman reconvened NCTC to go into closed session.

7. Closed Session: Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957, Employee Performance Evaluation of the Executive Director, Daniel B. Landon.

11:55 a.m. Chairman Susman reconvened NCTC and stated that no action was taken in closed session.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No comments were made.

COMMISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Commissioner Sutherland expressed her concern if the Department of Transportation and Transportation Commission were doing anything to get ready for an impending tragedy that could occur in Nevada County. She stated that she wanted everyone to work with law enforcement as a cohesive group, as a community, rather than as independent groups designing an emergency plan. She expressed the need for a plan to evacuate disabled people and for evacuation centers to be established. Commissioner Sutherland stated she had requested Supervisor Horne appoint two people to an Emergency Services Committee to develop a plan that was cohesive and coordinated by everyone. She also stated there was a need to develop a confidential database that would provide the location of handicapped people. A Commission discussion ensued. Chairman Susman stated he thought the Office of General Services should be the lead agency.

SCHEDULE FOR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 16, 2003 at 8:30 a.m., at the Nevada County Board of Supervisors Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Nancy D. Holman, Administrative Services Officer

Approved on: _____

By: _____
Joshua J. Susman, Chairman
Nevada County Transportation Commission